



Media Advisory

Franklin County Board of Commissioners | Office of Public Affairs | (614) 525-3322

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 20, 2014

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COUNTY GREEN CORPS PROGRAM PREPARES YOUTH FOR WORKPLACE, HELPS THEM FIND GOOD JOBS IN A GROWING FIELD

A workforce training partnership between the Franklin County Commissioners, Franklin Park Conservatory, and the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC), Green Corps will be graduating its most recent class of participants on Thursday evening at the Conservatory. The program is open to low-income youth 18-21 who have a high school diploma or GED, and provides 34 weeks of paid, in-class instruction and practical grounds work experience, field trips, and internships to provide students with the skills and experience they'll need for successful careers in horticulture.

The program is administrated by the Franklin Park Conservatory, and supported by the commissioners' Economic Development and Planning Department with funding from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development; COWIC screens applicants and pays an hourly wage to participants while they're in training.

Students receive training in in-demand horticulture and landscaping skills, including commercial pesticide application, park maintenance, irrigation and greenhouse maintenance. The students then have the opportunity to intern with local companies, and the program assists them in finding a full-time job after graduation. Every one of this year's 6-person graduating class have already secured employment with in the growing clean and green horticulture industry.

Franklin County Commissioner John O'Grady will address the graduates and congratulate them on their accomplishments and future prospects. The ongoing program begins each summer and is timed so that graduates are entering the workforce the following spring when the industry is hiring. The 2014 class will be forming soon, and interested individuals should call the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation at [614/559.5075](tel:6145595075) to apply.

WHAT:

Franklin County Green Corps Graduation Ceremony

WHO:

**Franklin County Commissioner John O'Grady
Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corp
Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department
Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens Program Coordinators
Green Corps Graduates and families**

WHERE:

**Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
Worthington Industries Veridian, Located in the Main Conservatory Building
1777 East Broad St., Columbus**

WHEN:

**Thursday, March 20th
5:30pm - 7:00pm**

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